

Fig. 1: Front view of face, showing arrangement of eyes

tubercles which are pointing downwards (Fig. 1). In *Eucta* sp. eyes are smaller and equal in size.

2. Subadult female measured about 4.4 mm in total length, carapace 1.2 mm long and 1.0 mm wide, abdomen 3.2 mm long and 0.8 mm wide. However, adult female measures about 13.3 mm in total length (Tikader and Malhotra 1978), nearly equal to that of *Eucta* sp.
3. Abdomen long but not pointed at the posterior end (unlike *Eucta* sp.).
4. Legs long but very delicate as compared to *Eucta* sp.

*Dinopis goalparaensis* rests in its web, stretching its legs like *Eucta* sp., anterior legs extended forward and posterior legs extended backward.

It is a nocturnal weaver and constructs two types of webs: Orb web and Actual Prey capture web (Fig. 2)

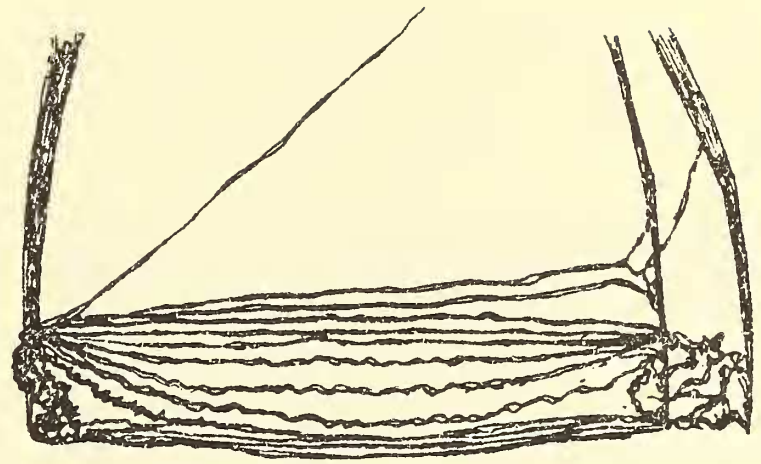


Fig. 2: Prey capture web held between the first two pairs of legs

The Orb web of *Dinopis* is similar to that of other orb weavers and it is not basically used for catching prey but for resting. The prey capture web is rectangular (like a tennis court net) and is held between the front legs by the spider, it consists of sticky silk threads.

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#### REFERENCE

TIKADER, B.K. & M.S. MALHOTRA (1978): A new record of rare spider of the Family Dinopidae from India with description of a new species. *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* 87B(6): 157-159.

#### 42. OBSERVATIONS ON *BAUHINIA MALABARICA* ROXB, LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE, SHAPE OF CALYX IS NOT CORRELATED WITH SEXUAL NATURE OF FLOWERS

Roxburgh while commenting on *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (in Carey ed., Fl. Ind. 2: 321.

1832) said, "This very distinct species is remarkable for the regularity of its five-parted

calyx..."; de Wit (in Reinwardtia 3(4): 533-534. 1956) stated "...the calyx splits in Malaysian specimens in the upper part into two lobes, one consisting of two sepal-tops and the other of three. In some cases, the five tops become free." He felt that the dimorphism might be connected with the sexual nature of the flowers, but he had not been able to demonstrate that the shape of the calyx was correlated with the sex of the flower. He further stated, "It is just possible that in India the tops of the sepals become always free and that this is connected with the flowers being male, which is confirmed by a few specimens from India which I was able to examine". In the course of my study, I have observed that in the Indian specimens, the calyx is five-lobed in the upper part in the female

flowers too. Thus, the shape of the calyx is not correlated with the sexual nature of the flowers.

In this connection, I would like to mention that fully developed male flowers are rarely found in herbarium specimens (see also de Wit in Reinwardtia 3(4): 533. 1956) because they remain attached to the pedicels just for a night and start falling from the next morning. Thus, during the flowering period, numerous fresh male flowers are found scattered under the tree, particularly in the morning hours.

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#### 43. REDISCOVERY OF *CEROPEGIA EVANSII* McCANN, ASCLEPIADACEAE, FROM MAHARASHTRA

(With one plate and one text-figure)

*Ceropegia evansii* McCann (Asclepiadaceae) is an endemic and threatened plant species. The species is known to occur only from the hill ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra i.e. Khandala and the neighbouring Sakarpathar-Ambavane range of Pune district (Ansari 1984, Jagtap and Singh 1999).

The species was first described by McCann from Khandala (1945). Santapau and Irani (1958, 1962) reported the species from the same hill ranges. The species was collected on July 27, 1964 by B.V. Reddi (93331) from Ambavane and deposited at the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

About the occurrence, Santapau (1953) noted that the species is "one of the commonest of the *Ceropegias* in Khandala and is found abundant on the lower slopes below Duke's Nose."

The species has disappeared very fast from its type locality because of anthropogenic problems and habitat destruction. It has not been collected again from its type locality and

other areas after 1964. This might be due to anthropogenic pressures and habitat destruction.

Ahmedullah and Nayar (1968) kept this plant under the rare and endangered category because of its localized distribution. In the RED DATA BOOK, Nayar and Sastry (1987) gave "vulnerable" status to the species. Almeida and Almeida (1990) have listed it as a threatened and endemic species. Singh and Karthikeyan (2000), Mishra and Singh (2000) have treated the species as critically endangered. According to the latter, the number of mature individuals in the wild is below 50. They have also reported that in 1997, a few plants were noted at Amba Ghat (Yadav, pers. comm.). Tetali *et al.* (2000) have treated it as vulnerable.

During routine botanical explorations, we have collected *C. evansii* from Rajgad, a hill fort, located in the Velhe taluka of Pune district in Maharashtra State (Fig. 1) at an altitude of 850 m. The present report is a rediscovery of *C. evansii* from a new locality other than